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Message Text

SECRET

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70
ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 NEA-06 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 PRS-01 USIA-04

DRC-01 SPC-01 /061 W
---------- 042400
R 201831Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4913

S E C R E T PARIS 29954

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH GOVERNMENT COMPORTMENT DURING ME CRISIS

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN KEPT INFORMED CONCERNING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY DURING THE ARAB/ISRAELI CRISIS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE CONCERNING OVERFLIGHT PERMISSIONS AND SHIP VISIT AUTHORIZATIONS WHENEVER WE HAVE FILED REQUESTS DURING THIS PERIOD. THE RECORD SHOULD SHOW THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NEVER ASKED PERMISSION TO TRANSIT FRENCH AIR SPACE WITH MILITARY SUPPLIES FOR ISRAEL -- AND THEREFORE THE FRENCH NEVER REFUSED US ANYTHING OF THAT KIND.

2. THE FRENCH TOOK A HELPFUL INITIATIVE INFORMALLY REGARDING THE PASSAGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIR SPACE OF OUR RESUPPLY AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL. ALSO, THEY HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING IN DJIBOUTI WITH FUEL. WE DID ASK FOR GOF AUTHORIZATIONS, BOTH VIA THE QUAI AND VIA THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES, FOR THE UNEF AIRLIFT AND FOR U.S. NAVY PORT VISITS AT DJIBOUTI; WE INFORMED GOF OF OUR INTENTION TO OVERFLY FRANCE WITH EMPTY PLANES RETURNING FROM ISRAEL. IN ALL OF THESE CASES THE FRENCH WERE FULLY SENSITIVE TO OUR NEEDS AND REPLIED RAPIDLY, COURTEOUSLY -- AND POSITIVELY. GDS
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IRWIN

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